

Abstract

Audio production is a growing trade. It includes music production, foley, live sound reinforcement, radio production, dialogue replacement for film and TV, and more. Many seek to pursue a career in this field, but do not know how or where to begin - or whether to seek a commercial position or to attempt a career as a freelance engineer. This essay will explore one of the many ways to make a career as an audio engineer: home recording in a project studio. It is a synthesis of primary and secondary research on the subject of home recording and acoustic treatment that is meant as a guide for graduating audio students, amateur audio engineers, or even recording/audio/music enthusiasts. There is an increasing fear – especially in the graduating audio student population-of the expense that starting a home-based project recording studio requires. Thus, the essay focuses on how the reader can make the most of what he or she has and what he or she can afford. It includes information about the author's experience building acoustic panels, administering acoustic *tests*, comparing and contrasting recording equipment, and more in order to show that it is possible to create a studio on a budget. The idea of the "Stepping Stone" recording studio stems from the fact that the concepts and equipment, can be built upon later - as one's career grows.

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